GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:865
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2016
Illegal Activities in Malda
Rao (Avnthi) Shri Muthamsetti Srinivasa

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Malda in West Bengal has emerged as the hot bed for illegal poppy cultivation, illegal arms and fake currency notes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HARIBHAI PARATHIBHAI CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b): Yes Madam, Incidence of Illicit Opium Cultivation has been found in malda district of West Bengal. Central Bureau of Narcotics has informed that Satellite surveys of illicit opium cultivation carried under the supervision of Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB) and they share the images with the Narcotics Control Bureau and
Central Bureau of Narcotics. The NCB in coordination with the CBN and state authorities, carry out destruction operations.

NCB and other enforcement agencies have conducted destruction operation of illicit opium cultivation in Malda and details are as under:
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DISTRICT 2013-14 2014-15 2015-16 (till 20.02.2016)
Malda,
W.B. 1137.5
Acres 2883.33
Acres 3708
Acres

While no data with respect ot illegal arms is maintained, the West Bengal-Bangladesh border has been identified as a major source of influx of fake Indian currency notes into India. The Malda district of West Bengal has been identified as a hub of these activities.

(c): STEPS TO CONTRAL ILLICIT OPIUM CULTIVATION:

(i) NCB has been co-ordinating with the Government of West Bengal and Enforcement Agencies viz. State Excise, Police and Border Guarding Forces viz. BSF.
(ii) Action Plan has been prepared in co-ordination with the State Government to prevent and control the incidence of illicit Opium Poppy Cultivation.
(iii) Close co-ordination is being maintained with District Administration of Malda.
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(iv) Ground survey, identification of Illicit Poppy crop and destruction operation in being undertaken.

STEPS TO CONTROL FICN:

(i) The Government has convened meetings with the Intelligence/Security Agencies at the Central and State level and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to find ways to contain this menace especially in Malda district. This includes sensitization of the local police about the damage being done to the economy by FICN smuggling, better coordination and information sharing between the Central and State Law Enforcement Agencies on FICN suppliers in the region and developing red flag indicators concerning FICN smuggling.
(ii) The CBI & NIA are the central agencies for investigation of FICN cases. The NIA has also constituted a Terror Funding and Fake Currency Cell (TFFC) in NIA to investigate Terror Funding and Fake currency cases. One special FICN Coordination Group (F-COORD) has been formed by the MHA

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to share intelligence/information among the different security agencies of States/Centre to counter the problem of circulation of FICN in the country.
(iii) The legal regime has been strengthened by amendments in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 wherein damage to the monetary stability of India by way of production or smuggling or circulation of high quality fake Indian paper currency coin or any other material has been declared as a terrorist act.
(iv) The Memorandum of Understanding signed between India and Bangladesh to prevent and counter smuggling and circulation of fake currency notes will promote bilateral cooperation in the field of preventing and combating, production, smuggling and circulation of fake currency notes, A standard operating procedure has been finalized in the third Joint Task Force Meeting held in New Delhi from 22-23 February, 2016 to implement the memorandum of Understanding.
(v) The Reserve Bank of India conducts awareness programmes to make the public aware of the features of Indian Bank
...5/-

Notes and to identify genuine Indian Bank Notes. It also conducts training programmes on detection of counterfeit for the employees/officers of Banks and other organizations and link large amount of cash.
(vi) To prevent the smuggling of fake currency notes into India, the staff posted at airports, railway stations and border posts have been sensitized form time to time which has resulted in significant hauls of FICN in these locations.
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